

## SATURDAY NIGHT SERMONS

BY  
REV. SAMUEL W. PURVIS, D.D.

### IS SUICIDE A SIN?

Texts. "Thou shalt not kill."—Exodus xii. 12. "Do thyself no harm."—Acts xvi. 28.

There's the crack of a revolver, the gurgle of a bottle, the tightening of a noose, the splash in the water—"one more unfortunate," records the morning paper. And the number is legion, grim, and ghastly—12,500 last year! More than one every hour. In six years as many flinging their lives back in the face of the Creator as the entire Union and Confederate losses at Gettysburg. Five men to one woman, age from nine to ninety-three. For the first time native Americans leading the list. It's a fearful army—bleeding, bloated, burnt lippled, staggering fixed eyes and disheveled unbidden into the silent halls of death. Man's the only animal that takes his life. Is suicide a sin or is it a weapon outraged nature gives us to escape the unbearable? Is life but a tent where in one takes a day's rest? May he take it down at will? There's but one avenue of birth and many of death. If he had no voice in the entrance may he choose the exit? If he cannot fix the day of coming may he select that of going? The canon of the Almighty says, "Thou shalt not." You neither gave it nor may you take it away. The law of God, the law of the state, the law of society, forbid you.

### "How Came He Dead?"

In the barbarous days of Rome there was no suicide; it came with civilization. This complex twentieth century existence is a predisposing cause. Our fast lives, living at high pressure, trouble, failure, sin and despair drive men and women to death. In civilized life there is a great struggle, great competition, and many fall. There are more kinds of hell in a great city than Dante ever imagined. To fall in a great city is like being wrecked at sea. In the country a man has friends, he can get some help and credit, the church is closer to the people, but in a city things are different. The man is lost in the multitude. In the roar of the crowd his cry is not heard. Death seems his only friend. Physically the stock degenerates and the individual decays. Mode of living, alcoholic stimulants, patent medicines with powerful drugs, premature development, sexual excesses, gluttony and worry help swell the figures. Fashion claims her quota, too—dances, dress, thin slippers, slim waists, bare arms and neck, pneumatic. Who hath slain, this girl or her mother, that she was sacrificed to this popular idol? Mentally a "cramping" school system, yellow newspapers, wrong conceptions of life through melodramatic theaters and moving picture shows. Infidelity—if anywhere in the world to come is a safe landing place why not jump off? Of the five Bible characters who committed suicide not one was a good man. Cynicism says: "Nothing's so cheap as human life. If you don't like this world get out." No future means no hope. That spells despair. There is only one thing in the universe stronger than love of life and fear of death, and that is despair. Suicide is the last resort of despair. There's something mighty wrong in the psychic world of the suicide. Things have lost their proper proportion. Humanity's first law is not self destruction, but self preservation. Ever see people fight for life? I have. Makes me thrill with horror. They'll fight hunger, thirst, burning building, deck of ferryboat, anywhere. Don't let a drowning man get his arms around you. A fellow's hard driven when he forgets that primal law. "Suicide while temporarily insane," says the coroner's jury. Sometimes correct. On their white faces our tears should fall. They had ended their lives by their own hands, but those hands were not directed by their proper selves. One of the saintliest men I've ever known, great Presbyterian clergyman of Baltimore, closed his life's book that way.

### Stop! Look! Listen!

Nearly every man who has lived deeply and intensely, who has loved and hated, tried and failed, has been tempted to cast himself from the pinnacle of life's temple at some time or other. Have you, friend? Tired of life? It's short—the flight of a shuttle. Dark? It's darker in the grave. Poor? So was Christ and millions of others. Filled? Who told you success meant happiness? Foul? Don't try and your way out through the gate of death. Don't do it. It's a leap in the dark. The trap door of hell's on the other side. Brace up. The suicide's a deserter in life's battle. He drops his gun and runs. Stand at your post till you're relieved. Path full of thorns? You're not alone. Most of us have planted a few thorn bushes ourselves. Bind up your heel. Try not to limp. Folks only grin. Not your fault? Things can't be worse? That's good. Listen. Change is the law of life and human affairs. At the worst point comes the change. Tide is about to turn. "Darkest hour's just before dawn." Cheer up. "God's in his heaven, all's well with the world." Suicide's a blunder. If we were only bodies it would be different, but we are souls. Suicide murders both. How do you know that by suicide you'd escape the ills you are dying from? If you want to get to a world where there is no sorrow, sickness, disappointment or misery you won't get there by self murder. Leave your earthly terminus with God. Don't leap from the frying pan into the fire.

## HAD NO FAITH IN BANKS.

Front page item, Times-Dispatch (Richmond, Va.,) December 3, 1910.

### AGED WOMAN FOUND DEAD IN HOME AND LARGE SUM OF MONEY MISSING.

Sisterville, W. Va., December 2.—Mrs. Elizabeth Allen, aged eighty-seven years, a wealthy widow, was found dead today at her home at Shirley, near here. A large sum of money, which she had in the house is missing, and the coroner is of the opinion that she was strangled to death, after which the robbery was effected. Mrs. Allen lived alone, and had no faith in banks. She owned considerable property, including several farms, on which were producing oil wells.

The money she received in royalties from these wells she kept in the house. When Mrs. Allen did not appear early in the day, search was made for her, and she was found, fully dressed, in a rear room on the floor. Other rooms were in confusion, showing she had fought hard for her life. The physician who was called, said a number of small bones in her hand were broken and her windpipe had been crushed. In a house twenty-feet away Mrs. Allen's son John, is dying from tuberculosis. Attorneys for Mrs. Allen went through the house late today, and found \$172 sewed in an old quilt and \$12 in an old sofa. There is missing an old wallet in which Mrs. Allen is known to have had over \$3,000 cash, with bonds, notes and other securities.

Such items as the above are seen in papers every day, and are forceful teachers of the dangers of keeping money in the home—not only that of losing the money, but life as well.

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—AT—

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**\$20,000 Worth Fall and Winter Goods to Go at Less Than Manufacturers Prices.**

### BELOW WE QUOTE A FEW SPECIALS:

#### MEN'S CLOTHING

- 1 lot 6.00, 7.00 and 8.00 Mens Suits to go . . . . . 4.89
- 1 lot 7.50 Mens Suits, heavy Cashmere . . . . . 5.39
- 1 lot 7.50 Mens Suits, heavy Cashmere . . . . . 4.89
- 1 lot 10.00 Brown Suits, good value . . . . . 7.50
- 1 lot 10.00 and 12.00 Brown Suits, good value . . . . . 6.89
- 1 lot 10.00 check suits, hard finish (guaranteed to wear well) . . . . . 7.50
- 1 lot 15.00 suits, sizes, 34, 35, and 36, all wool . . . 10.00
- 1 lot 15.00 men's suits, this sale . . . . . 9.50
- 1 lot 15.00 men's suits, this sale . . . . . 11.50
- 1 lot 15.00 men's suits, this sale . . . . . 12.50
- 1 lot 16.00 men's suits, this sale . . . . . 13.50
- 16.00 and 17.50 men's suits, all wool, guaranteed . . 14.00

WE HAVE SOME GOOD VALUES IN OVERCOATS FOR BOYS AND MEN. ASK TO SEE THEM.

#### SHOES! SHOES!

- \$1.50 Brogans . . . . . \$1.25
- 2.00 Brogans, first quality . . 1.60
- 3.50 Wholesome Kip Shoe . . 2.75
- 1.69 value Satin Calf, this sale 1.39
- 1.50 value Boys' Satin Calf, this sale . . . . . 1.25

#### CHILDREN'S CLOTHING.

- \$3.00 Suits, new and stylish \$2.39
- 3.50 Suits, new and stylish . . 2.89
- 4.00 Suits, this sale . . . . . 3.39
- 5.00 Suits, this sale . . . . . 4.00
- 6.00 and 8.00 Suits, this sale . 5.00
- 8.00 and 10.00 Suits, this sale . 7.50

#### LADIES' SUITS AND CLOAKS.

- Ladies' 10.00 Suits, this sale 7.50
- Ladies' 15.00 Suits, this sale 12.50
- Ladies' 17.00 Suits, this sale 15.00

CLOAKS AND CAPES ALMOST AT YOUR OWN PRICE. COME IN AND TAKE A LOOK.

We have the largest stock of ladies and children's shoes ever shown in Farmville and invite you to see them.

Goods charged in this sale will be at regular prices. These prices are for cash to meet our fall bills.

**Our Line of Ladies Furs are New and Up-to-Date.**

All-wool blankets \$5.50 value \$4.39; \$6.00 value at \$4.98; 11/4 wool nap blankets \$1.98; quilts 90c to \$2.39. 10c outing 8 1/2c; 25c quality ladies vests 5, 6 and 7, while they last 20c; extra large ladies vests (7, 8 and 9) 25c.

Big lot \$1.50 mens pants, this sale \$1.00. Big lot \$2.00 mens pants, this sale \$1.50. (We stick to our Motto: Quick sales and small profits. Same goods for less money. Better goods for same money.)

All we ask is to give us a look and we will do the rest.

Remember this Sale Commences Dec. 1st for 30 Days Only.

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